

Remarks

Claims 1-40 are pending; claims 13 and 16 - 40 were withdrawn; claim 1 is amended herein, and therefore claims 1 - 12, 14 and 15 remain for consideration.

The applicants have disclosed an improved razor blade cartridge comprising a plastic body with a leading edge, a trailing edge, and a series of integrally formed guard ribs extending between the leading and trailing edges that are integrally molded with the plastic body. The guard ribs are formed from the same material as the body and cover the cutting edges of the cutting blades, which are encompassed by the plastic body.

An amendment to the elected Claims 1 - 12, 14 and 15 was previously filed in response to a Final Office Action in order to distinguish over a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Althaus (U.S. Pat. No. 5,447,084). An Advisory Action indicated that the amendment raised new issues and would not be entered. The applicant filed a Request for Continued Examination, and this is in response to the first Office Action thereunder.

Claim rejections - 35 U. S. C. 102

Morrison

Claims 1 - 9, 11 - 12 and 14 - 15 have been rejected under 35 U. S. C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morrison (U.S. Pat. No. 5,386,750). Morrison discloses a detachable hair-trimming attachment for a disposable safety razor. A removable body 16 comprises a plastic member including a leading edge and a series of integrally formed ribs serving as a spacing means for maintaining a desired separation of the blade from the users skin. The ribs serve as a guide for directing longer hairs to the blade, where they are severed at a predetermined distance of about one eighth of an inch from the skin.

When the plastic comb is assembled to the razor, the entire blades of the razor lie completely beneath the teeth or ribs. The upper edges of the teeth contacting the skin are approximately one eighth of an inch from the blade. Therefore, they prevent a shave, rather than guarding against nicks from a shaving blade.

The Examiner's attention is drawn to **Fig. 3** of the applicants' disclosure and the

accompanying description in paragraphs 24, 25 and 26 of the application. As described in the specification, and as clearly shown in **Fig. 3**, guard ribs **46** do not completely overlie the blades **40a**, **40b**, or **40c**. Only the front edge **48** of a guard rib covers and overlies the cutting edges of the blades. Blades **40a**, **40b** and **40c** are encompassed by the other more extensive parts of ribs **46** extending back from the cutting edge. The construction is quite different from that shown in the Morrison patent, where the full height of the ribs extends above the blades, so as to provide spacing for facial hair being left attached to the skin.

Claim 1, as amended, is distinguished from the Morrison disclosure by the recitation of “cutting blades having portions encompassed by said guard ribs of said plastic body”. Claim 1 is further distinguished from the Morrison disclosure with the recitation that “said guard ribs cover the cutting edge of it least one of said cutting blades”.

Dependent claims 2 - 9, 11 - 12 and 14 - 15 are distinguished from the disclosure in the same manner as claim 1 above, since they are dependent on claim 1.

Lee

Claims 1 - 9, 11 - 12 and 14 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lee et al., (U.S. Pat. No. 5,794,343). Lee discloses a razor blade assembly consisting of a cartridge for attachment to a handle in the same manner as envisioned by the applicants' invention. A platform **10** of a rigid plastic material has leading and trailing edges. An elongated guard member **30** of elastomeric material has fins extending parallel to the blades and positioned forward of the blades. The guard **30** of elastomeric material is molded at the same time as the platform **10** of rigid plastic material. The elongated fins extend parallel to and forward of the blade edges, rather than covering the cutting edges of the blades as recited in claim 1.

Claim 1, as amended, is clearly distinguished from the Lee disclosure by the recitation of “said guard ribs being formed from the same material as said body”. Claim 1, as amended, is further distinguished from the Lee disclosure by the recitation of “cutting blades having portions encompassed by said guard ribs of said plastic body”. Claim 1 is further distinguished from the Lee disclosure with the recitation that “said

guard ribs cover the cutting edge of it least one of said cutting blades”.

Dependent claims 2 - 9, 11 - 12 and 14 - 15 are distinguished from the disclosure in the same manner as claim 1 above, since they are dependent on claim 1.

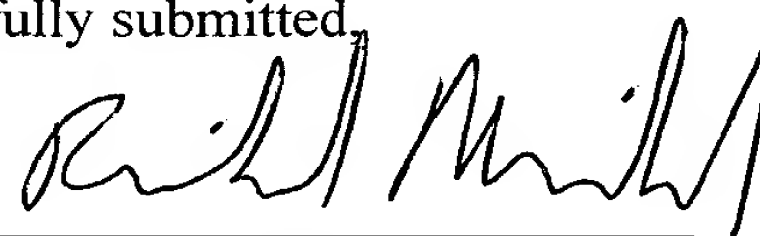
Claim rejections - 35 U. S. C. 103

Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morrison in view of Althaus (U.S. Pat. No. 5,447, 84). Claim 10 has also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Althaus (U.S. Pat. No. 5,447,084). Althaus teaches the use of a lubricating strip **21**. However, claim 10 is dependent upon claim 1, which has been clearly distinguished from the Morrison and Lee references. Therefore, the rejection on the grounds that it would be obvious to modify Morrison or Lee by adding the lubricating strip **21** of Althaus appears to fail. The Morrison and the Lee references do not disclose the claimed invention.

The applicant has reviewed the other prior art of record and does not consider the cited art to disclose the independent claim 1, as amended, or the claims dependent thereon. Reconsideration is respectfully requested, and it is asked that the case be passed to issue.

Applicant does not believe any fee is due herewith. In the event a fee is due with the filing of this response, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Richard R. Michaud
Registration No. 40,088
Attorney for Applicants

McCormick, Paulding & Huber LLP
CityPlace II, 185 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103-3402
860-549-5290